



STATE SENATOR • LIZ BRATER • 18TH DISTRICT

Brater Press Release

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Senate Republicans Approve Plan That Threatens Ability to Grow Jobs Brater Opposes Reckless Policy That Jeopardizes School, Public Safety Funding

LANSING—Senator Liz Brater (D-Ann Arbor) opposed a plan approved by Republicans in the Michigan Legislature today that would eliminate the Single Business Tax without offering a plan to replace the revenue, which is roughly 25% of the state's general fund.

“Eliminating the SBT without a plan to replace it is reckless public policy,” said Brater. “Proponents of this bill are simply folding to special interests. This is an irresponsible plan that will actually deter companies from bringing good paying jobs to our state all while putting the health, safety, and future of our students, seniors, families, and children at risk. The Senate Republicans are playing election year politics with Michigan's economy.”

The state's general fund is the main funding source for higher education, prisons, state-funded health care programs, and assistance to local governments for police and fire programs. It is expected that funding for these programs will be reduced, individuals and small businesses will be required to pay more in taxes than they do currently, or some combination of both.

Experts and opinion leaders across the state have expressed great concern that making the cut without any details on how the revenue will be replaced could damage the state's already fragile economy. Businesses considering locating in the state would not have any information on how or how much they will be required to pay in a replacement tax. This tax plan ambiguity left in the wake of this decision will make it *harder* to attract and retain major business.

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State Senator Brater represents Senate District 18 which includes the cities of Ann Arbor, Ypsilanti, and Chelsea, the Villages of Barton Hills and Dexter, and the following townships: Ann Arbor, Augusta, Dexter, Freedom, Lima, Lyndon, Northfield, Salem, Scio, Sharon, Superior, Sylvan, Webster and Ypsilanti. She is the minority vice chair of the natural Resources and Environmental Affairs Committee and the Agriculture, Forestry, and Tourism Committee.